

Remarks/Arguments

The above-identified application has been carefully reviewed and amended in light of the Examiner's communication mailed April 9, 2004.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 43 and 46-53 and the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 12, 22, 31, 36-42 and 45 in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has stated "Claims 12, 22, 31, 36-42 and 45 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

In response, claim 1 has been amended to define the invention of claim 12 written in independent form. Claim 12 has been canceled. Applicant submits that claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. In addition, applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 36 and 37, each being dependent on amended claim 1, define patentable subject matter.

Claim 18 has been amended to define the invention of claim 22 in independent form. Claim 22 has been canceled. Applicant submits that claim 18 defines patentable subject matter. In addition, applicant submits that claims 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 34, 39 and 40, each being dependent on amended claim 18, define patentable subject matter.

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Claim 26 has been amended to define the invention of claim 31 in independent form. Claim 31 has been canceled. Applicant submits that claim 26 defines patentable subject matter. In addition, applicant submits that claims 27, 29, 30, 35, 41, 42 each being dependent on amended claim 26, define patentable subject matter.

Claim 44 has been amended to define the invention of claim 45 in independent form. Claim 45 has been canceled. Applicant submits that claim 44 defines patentable subject matter.

Claims 54, 55, 57, 58, 59 and 60 have been added. Claims 54, 55, 57, 58, 59 and 60 define the invention of claims 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, and 42 respectively, in independent form. Applicant submits therefore that new claims 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, and 60 each define patentable subject matter. New claim 56 is dependent on new claim 55, and defines the invention of previous claim 38. Applicant submits therefore that new claim 56 also defines patentable subject matter.

In summary, applicant submits that each of claims 1-4, 6-9, 13-16, 18-21, 23-27, 29, 30 and 34-60, as amended, defines subject matter found to be patentable by the Examiner and accordingly requests allowance thereof.

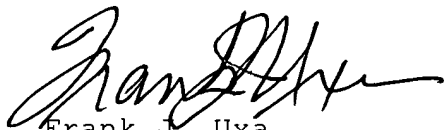
Applicant submits that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the application to issuance at an early date.

Should any matter remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested

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to call (collect) the applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank J. Uxa", written in a cursive style.

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